

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### DERRY TOWNSHIP BRIDGE ON TOWHNSIP ROAD #941

### CONEMAUGH RIVER LAKE WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 10 U.S. Code, Section 2668 (Easements for rights-of-way) the Commissioners of Derry Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, are seeking a real estate outgrant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, to replace an existing bridge on Stony Run with a new structure. This new bridge would be located immediately downstream from the existing bridge. Presently, the existing bridge, a one lane structure, is closed due to its distressed condition. The bridge is located on Township Road T-941 and connects State Route 1025 and Township Route 968. The new bridge would be constructed within the boundary of the Corps of Engineers' Conemaugh River Lake project.

The proposed project would replace the existing one lane bridge with a new modern structure. The existing bridge is undersized, poorly aligned, and deteriorated such as to require closure. The closure to vehicular and pedestrian traffic eliminates a vital link for the community and results in an extensive detour. Minor roadwork along each approach would result in improved sight visibility and traffic safety.

An Environmental Assessment for the proposed replacement of the bridge at Stony Run was prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for Derry Township. Its purpose is to identify potential environmental impacts, evaluate their significance and to fulfill reporting requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S. Code, Sections 4321-4370d, as amended. Considerations included water quality, wetlands, terrestrial habitat, fish and wildlife resources, threatened and endangered species, flood plains, recreation, soils, scenic rivers, and cultural resources. The Environmental Assessment evaluated a preferred alignment and a no action plan. The no action plan was not selected because the plan would deprive local residents of the present established and needed roadway, causing health and safety concerns.

All necessary coordination with federal and state agencies was conducted to fulfill the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. None of the comments received suggest that any significant environmental impacts would result. The response letters are on file in the Pittsburgh District Office.

After careful review and evaluation of beneficial and detrimental aspects related to the development of the proposed bridge over Stony Run at the Comemaugh River Lake project, as described in the Environmental Assessment, I have reasonably concluded that the public interest would be best served by the proposal, and that the associated activities

will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Construction activities would be minor. Little change from the present condition would result. This Finding of No Significant Impact precedes the Corps of Engineers' final decision on the proposed action. A copy of the Finding of No Significant Impact is available for viewing on the Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District web site located at [www.lrp.usace.army.mil](http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil).

28 Apr 08

Date

Michael P. Crall

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Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer